

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5308

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH CANARY ISLANDS LIBERATION
LEADER

1. ON NOVEMBER 18' A MAN IN HIS FIFTIES WHO WOULD NOT GIVE HIS REAL NAME BUT SAID HE WAS KNOWN IN MOSCOW AS PROFESSOR JOSE VEGUETA, CALLED ON EMBOFF TO DISCUSS CANARY ISLANDS. HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS AN ACADEMIC AND ONE OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE MOVEMENT FOR THE SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE CANARY ARCHIPELIGO (MPAIAC). HE INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN A SPLIT IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THAT HE SPOKE FOR THE THREE MEMBERS STILL LIVING IN THE CANARIES, BUT NOT FOR THE THREE OTHERS HEADQUARTERED IN ALGIERS.

2. VEGUETA (TO USE HIS PSEUDONYM) GAVE A LONG AND IMPRESSIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORY OF THE CANARIES,
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ITS LIBERATION MOVEMENT. AND UN DECOLONIZATION EFFORTS

THAT ENDED WITH THE "SELF-EVIDENT" CONCLUSION THAT THE ARCHIPELIGO WILL BE INDEPENDENT IN FIVE OR SIX YEARS. HE NOTED THE MPAIAC'S EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS, ESPECIALLY WITH COMMUNIST AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES' AND HIS OWN VISITS TO THEIR CAPITALS. HE EXPOUNDED ON HIS VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF HIS COUNTRY - TRULY DEMOCRATIC, NONALIGNED AND WITH A MIXED ECONOMY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MPAIAC LEADERS IN ALGIERS PREFER A MARXIST SOLUTION AND ARE PREPARED TO HAVE THE COUNTRY BECOME A SOVIET SATELLITE TO GAIN THEIR ENDS. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SPLIT, HE SAID, WAS BASED ON THESE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES, AS WELL AS PERSONALITY CONFLICTS.

3. AFTER UNDERLINING THE ISLANDS' STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, VEGUETA ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD AID AN INDEPENDENT CANARIES, WHETHER THE U.S. IN THE MEANTIME, WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE MPAIAC, AND, FINALLY, WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD HELP HIS FACTION FINANCIALLY IN ORDER TO COUNTER SOVIET, ALGERIAN AND OTHER COMMUNIST AND ARAB AID TO THE ALGIERS GROUP. AFTER EMBOFF GAVE THE APPROPRIATE REPLY, OUTLINING U.S. POLICY TOWARD LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES SINCE WORLD /WAR II, AND AGREED TO REPORT THE CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON, VEGUETA EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN TRAVELING TO THE U.S. TO TALK WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS THERE. EMBOFF ADVISED VEGUETA THAT THE RESPONSE OF AMERICANS ELSEWHERE WOULD NOT BE DIFFERENT, BUT ACCEPTED THE INFORMATION THAT HE COULD REACH VEGUETA THROUGH A PHONE CALL TO PROFESSOR KANTE AT THE COLLEGE DE FRANCE (TEL: 325-62-11) ASKING WHETHER "JUAN" WOULD COME TO SEE HIM ABOUT A TRANSLATION.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE LARGELY IGNORANT ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE CANARIES AND ABOUT THE MPAIAC ROLE THERE. SINCE EMBOFF WAS STRUCK BY VEGUETA'S INTELLIGENCE AND PERSONALITY AND IN LIGHT OF THE CANARIES' STRATEGIC POSITION, WE PASS THIS REPORT ALONG FOR WHATEVER IT MAY BE WORTH.

RUSH

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